

PCT

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference ZCO-101PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US2004/010185	International filing date (day/month/year) 02/04/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 23/05/2003
Applicant Z CORPORATION		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☒ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☒ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

1-42, 54-67
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-42

Apparatus and methods for fabricating a three-dimensional object

2. claims: 43-53

Apparatus and method for cleaning a printhead

3. claims: 54-67

Apparatus and method for reconditioning a printhead

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The invention relates to apparatus (10) and methods for producing three-dimensional objects and auxiliary systems used in conjunction with the aforementioned apparatus and methods. The apparatus and methods involve continuously printing radially about a circular and/or rotating build table (12) using multiple printheads (48). The apparatus and methods also include optionally using multiple build tables. The auxiliary systems relate to build material supply, printhead cleaning, diagnostics, and monitoring operation of the apparatus.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B41J2/01 B29C67/00 B41J2/165

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B41J B29C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 876 550 A (FEYGIN MICHAEL ET AL) 2 March 1999 (1999-03-02) column 14, line 40 - line 48 column 25, line 66 - line 12; figure 16 -----	1-42
X	US 5 837 960 A (BARBE MICHAEL R ET AL) 17 November 1998 (1998-11-17) column 7, line 4 - line 41 -----	1,27
A	US 6 416 850 B1 (BREDT JAMES F ET AL) 9 July 2002 (2002-07-09) cited in the application column 5, line 16 - column 7, line 52 -----	1-42
Y	US 2003/081047 A1 (YEAROUT RUSSELL P) 1 May 2003 (2003-05-01) paragraph '0007! - paragraph '0011!; figure 1 ----- -/--	54-67

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

15. 04. 2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 1 074 389 A (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) 7 February 2001 (2001-02-07) paragraph '0008! - paragraph '0011!; figures 2-4 -----	54-67
Y	EP 1 164 020 A (HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY) 19 December 2001 (2001-12-19) paragraph '0018!; figures 3a,4 -----	54-67
Y	EP 1 310 369 A (AGFA-GEVAERT) 14 May 2003 (2003-05-14) paragraph '0013!; figure 2 -----	54-59, 62-65
Y	US 2002/075349 A1 (SAWICKI PAUL F) 20 June 2002 (2002-06-20) paragraph '0019!; figures 2,3 -----	54-59, 62-65
A	US 2001/000434 A1 (MEDIN TODD R) 26 April 2001 (2001-04-26) paragraph '0056!; figures 3,9 -----	54-67